

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of polymerizing poly(cyclic)olefin monomers comprising:

(a) combining a monomer composition comprising one or more poly(cyclic)olefin monomers, a non-olefinic chain transfer agent and an optional activator compound in a reaction vessel to form a mixture; and

(b) adding a polymerization catalyst containing Ni and/or Pd ligated only by a monodentate ligand, the catalyst causing the mixture to polymerize;

wherein the non-olefinic chain transfer agent includes one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of H₂, alkylsilanes, alkylalkoxysilanes, alkylgermanes, alkylalkoxygermanes, alkylstannanes, and alkylalkoxystannanes.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-olefinic chain transfer agent comprises alkylsilanes and/or alkylalkoxysilanes.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-olefinic chain transfer agent comprises H₂, and wherein at least one of said monodentate ligands is selected from the group consisting of toluene, benzene, mesitylene, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, diethylether, ethylacetate, methylacetate, and propylacetate.

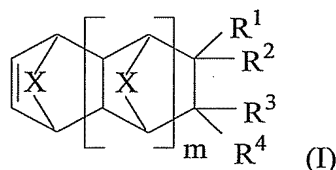
Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein an activator is present and the activator is characterized as having a functional group containing an active hydrogen with a pK_a of at least about 5.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the functional group is hydroxyl or carboxylic acid.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the functional group is -OH.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the activator is a compound containing an -OH functional group selected from water and C₁-C₂₄ linear, branched, and cyclic alkyl, aryl, and alkaryl moieties containing at least one hydroxyl group.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the poly(cyclic)olefin monomers comprise a first monomer according to Formula (I):



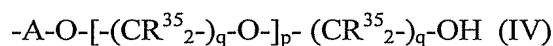
wherein X is selected from -CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-, O, S, and -NH-; m is an integer from 0 to 5; and each occurrence of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ is independently selected from one of the following groups:

- a) H, halogen, linear, branched or cyclic C₁ to C₃₀ alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl or alkynyl;
- b) linear or branched C₁ to C₂₄ halohydrocarbyls, -(CH₂)_nC(O)OR*, -(CH₂)_nC(O)OR', -(CH₂)_nOR, -(CH₂)_nOC(O)R, -(CH₂)_nC(O)R, -(CH₂)_n-OC(O)OR', -(CH₂)_nC(R)₂CH(R)(C(O)OR**), -(CH₂)_n(CR₂)_nCH(R)(C(O)OR**), -(CH₂)_nC(OR***)(CF₃)₂, -(CR''₂)_nOR, -CH₂-[O(CH₂)_n]_m*-C(OR***)(CF₃)₂, -(CH₂)_nC(R)₂CH(C(O)OR**) ₂, -(CH₂)_nC(O)OH, CH₂)_nC(R*)₂CH(R*)(C(O)OH), -(CH₂)_n-C(O)-O-R¹⁸, -(CH₂)_n-C(CY₃)₂-OH, and -(CH₂)_nC(R*)₂CH(C(O)OH)₂; where each occurrence of R is independently selected from H and linear or branched C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl; R' is a linear or branched C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl or alkylol; R'' is selected from H and halogen; n and m* are each an integer from 0 to 10; R* represents an acid labile group cleavable by a photoacid generator; R** is selected from R' and R* as defined above and tertiary C₄ to C₂₀ alkyl and cycloalkyl, C₁ to C₆ trialkylsilyl groups, and C₄ to C₂₀ oxoalkyl;

R*** is selected from H, -CH₂OR^{'''}, -C(O)OR^{'''} and -C(O)R^{'''}, where R^{'''} is selected from methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, and C₁ to C₂₀ linear or branched cycloaliphatic, R¹⁸ is selected from H, and linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and alkaryl, Y is selected from F and Cl and at least one occurrence of Y is F;

c) C₁ to C₃₀ linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl or alkynyl containing one or more hetero atoms selected from O, N, and Si;

d) a hydroxy alkyl ether according to Formula (IV):



wherein A is a linking group selected from C₁ to C₆ linear, branched, or cyclic alkylene, each occurrence of R³⁵ is independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl and a halide, q is from 1 to 5, and p is from 0 to 3;

e) a group according to Formula (V):



where R³⁶ is a linear, branched or cyclic C₁ to C₃₀, optionally partially or completely halogenated, alkylene, arylene, aralkylene, alkarylene, alkenylene or alkynylene linking group and Z is a functional group selected from hydroxyl, carboxylic acid, amine, thiol, isocyanate and epoxy; and

f) C_rX^{''}_{2r+1}, wherein X^{''} is independently a halogen selected from fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine and r is an integer from 1 to 20.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein m=0.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein m=0, R¹ is the hydroxy alkyl ether according to Formula (IV), and R², R³, and R⁴ are each H in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomer.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein A is methylene or ethylene, each occurrence of R³⁵ is H, q is from 2 to 5, and p is 0 in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomer.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein m=0, X is -CH₂-, R¹, R² and R³ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is -(CH₂)_n-C(OR^{***})-(CF₃)₂ where n and R^{***} is as defined above.

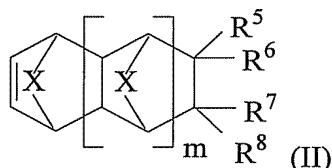
Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein $m=0$, X is $-\text{CH}_2-$, R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen and R^3 and R^4 are $\text{C}_r\text{X}''_{2r+1}$, wherein X'' is independently a halogen selected from fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine and r is an integer from 1 to 20.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the poly(cyclic)olefin monomer is selected from the group consisting of α,α -bis(trifluoromethyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-ethanol, 5-norbornene-2-methanol hydroxyethylether, t-butylester of norbornene 5-carboxylic acid, hydroxyethylester of 5-norbornene carboxylic acid, trimethylsilane ester of 5-norbornene carboxylic acid, 5-norbornene-2-methanol acetate, 5-norbornene-2-methanol, 5-norbornene-2-ethanol, 5-triethoxysilylnorbornene, 1-methylcyclopentyl ester of 5-norbornene carboxylic acid, tetrahydro-2-oxo-3-furanyl ester of 5-norbornene carboxylic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the acid labile groups, denoted R^* , in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomer are selected from the group consisting of $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, isobornyl, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranoyl, 3-oxocyclohexanonyl, mevalonic lactonyl, dicyclopropylmethyl, dimethylcyclopropylmethyl and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein R^{**} in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomer is selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl, tert-amyl, 1,1-diethylpropyl, 1-methylcyclopentyl, 1-ethylcyclopentyl, 1-butylcyclopentyl, 1-methylcyclohexyl, 1-ethylcyclohexyl, 1-butylcyclohexyl, 1-ethyl-2-cyclopentenyl, 1-ethyl-2-cyclohexenyl, 2-ethyl-2-adamantyl, trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl and dimethyl-tert-butylsilyl, 3-oxocyclohexyl, 4-methyl-2-oxooxan-4-yl, and 5-methyl-2-oxooxolan-5-yl.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the poly(cyclic)olefin monomers further comprise a second monomer according to Formula (II):



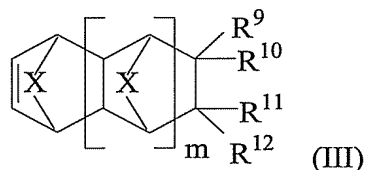
wherein m is an integer from 0 to 5; X is selected from $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, O , S , and $-\text{NH}-$; R^5 to R^8 are independently selected from H , $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}''$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}'$, $\text{Si}(\text{OR}')_3$, $-(\text{CB}_2)_n\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{R}''$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{OR}''$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}'$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(\text{R}^*)_2\text{CH}(\text{R}^*)(\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{**})$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(\text{R}^*)_2\text{CH}(\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{**})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}'$ and $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}'$, wherein n is independently an integer from 0 to 10; B is hydrogen or a halogen; R^* is independently hydrogen, a halogen, C_1 to C_{10} linear or branched alkyl or cycloalkyl, or C_1 to C_{10} linear or branched halogenated alkyl or cycloalkyl; R^{**} is independently C_1 to C_{10} linear or branched alkyl or cycloalkyl or C_1 to C_{10} linear or branched halogenated alkyl cycloalkyl; R' is independently hydrogen, a linear or branched (C_1 to C_{10}) alkyl group or cycloalkyl group or a linear or branched (C_1 to C_{10}) halogenated alkyl group or halogenated cycloalkyl group; and R'' is independently C_1 to C_{10} linear or branched alkyl or halogenated alkyl, C_4 to C_{20} monocyclic or polycyclic cycloaliphatic or halogenated cycloalkyl moiety, a cyclic ether, a cyclic ketone or a cyclic ester (lactone), wherein each of the cyclic ether, ketone and ester can be halogenated or not.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein $m=0$ in the second monomer.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the cycloaliphatic groups of R^* are selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 1-adamantyl, and 1-norbornene.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the groups R^1 to R^4 and R^5 to R^8 in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomers of Formula (I) and Formula (II) are independently selected such that three or more poly(cyclic)olefin monomers are included in the monomer composition.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the poly(cyclic)olefin monomers further comprise a third monomer according to Formula (III):



wherein m is an integer from 0 to 5; X is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, O , S , or $-\text{NH}-$; R^9 to R^{12} are independently selected from H , halogen, linear, branched or cyclic C_1 to C_{30} alkyl, alkylol, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl or alkynyl; a non-carboxylic acid group containing an active hydrogen with a pK_a of 15 or less, and a carboxylic acid substituents selected from the group consisting of those in accordance with the formulas $-(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OH}$, $(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{C}(\text{R}^{25})_2\text{CH}(\text{R}^{25})(\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OH})$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{C}(\text{R}^{25})_2\text{CH}(\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OH})_2$, wherein q is an integer from 0 to 10 and each occurrence of R^{25} is independently selected from H , halogen, linear, branched or cyclic C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, and linear, branched or cyclic C_1 to C_{10} halogenated alkyl; and wherein at least one of R^9 to R^{12} is a carboxylic acid substituent as described above.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein $m=0$ in the third monomer.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the groups R^1 to R^4 and R^9 to R^{12} in the poly(cyclic)olefin monomers of Formula (I) and Formula (III) are independently selected such that three or more poly(cyclic)olefin monomers are included in the monomer composition.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent is one or more of an alkylsilane or alkylalkoxysilane selected from the group consisting of Si-H containing cyclotetrasiloxanes and compounds according to the formulae HSiR^{48}_3 , $\text{HSi}(\text{OR}^{48})_1\text{R}^{48}_2$, $\text{HSi}(\text{OR}^{48})_2\text{R}^{48}_1$, $\text{Si}(\text{OSiR}^{49}_3)_4$, and mixtures thereof,

wherein each occurrence of R⁴⁸ is independently selected from linear, branched or cyclic C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl and each occurrence of R⁴⁹ is independently selected from H and linear, branched or cyclic C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl, where at least one occurrence of R⁴⁹ is H.

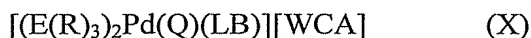
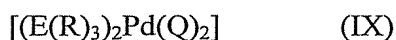
Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein the alkylsilanes are selected from the group consisting of triethylsilane, tri-isopropylsilane, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the combination of the monomer composition and catalyst is heated a temperature sufficient to effect polymerization.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the mixture is heated to a temperature of from 30 to 150°C.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises Pd.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises a catalyst according to one or both of Formulae (IX) and (X):



wherein E is a Group 15 element from the Periodic Table of the Elements, R independently represents hydrogen or an anionic hydrocarbyl containing moiety; Q represents an anionic ligand selected from a carboxylate, thiocarboxylate, and dithiocarboxylate group; LB represents a Lewis base; WCA represents a weakly coordinating anion.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polymerization catalyst is selected from the group consisting of *trans*-[Pd(NCMe)(OAc)(P(*I*-propyl)₃)₂]B(C₆F₅)₄, *trans*-[Pd(NCC(CH₃)₃)(OAc)(P(*I*-propyl)₃)₂]B(C₆F₅)₄, *trans*-[Pd(OC(C₆H₅)₂)(OAc)(P(*I*-propyl)₃)₂]B(C₆F₅)₄, *trans*-[Pd(HOCH(CH₃)₂)(OAc)(P(*I*-propyl)₃)₂]B(C₆F₅)₄,

trans-[Pd(NCMe)(OAc)(P(cyclohexyl)₃)₂]B(C₆F₅)₄, Pd(OAc)₂(P(cyclohexyl)₃)₂, Pd(OAc)₂(P(*i*-propyl)₃)₂, Pd(OAc)₂(P(*i*-propyl)₂(phenyl))₂, *trans*-[Pd(NCMe)(OAc)(P(cyclohexyl)₂(*t*-butyl))₂]B(C₆F₅)₄ and mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises Ni.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of monomer to catalyst is from 200:1 to 200,000:1.

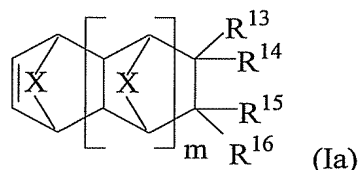
Claim 33 (Original): A poly(cyclic)olefin polymer prepared according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 34 (Original): A poly(cyclic)olefin polymer prepared according to the method of claim 8.

Claim 35 (Original): A poly(cyclic)olefin polymer prepared according to the method of claim 17.

Claim 36 (Original): A poly(cyclic)olefin polymer prepared according to the method of claim 21.

Claim 37 (Original): An unsaturated monomer comprising Formula (Ia):

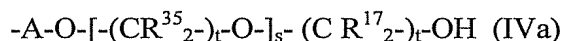


wherein X is selected from -CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-, O, S and -NH-; m is an integer from 0 to 5; and each occurrence of R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from one of the following groups:

(a) H, C₁ to C₂₅ linear, branched, and cyclic alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl and alkynyl;

(b) C₁ to C₂₅ linear, branched, and cyclic alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl and alkynyl containing one or more hetero atoms selected from O, N, and Si;

(c) a hydroxy alkyl ether according to Formula (IVa):



wherein A is a linking group selected from C₁ to C₆ linear, branched, and cyclic alkylene, each occurrence of R¹⁷ is independently selected from H, methyl and ethyl, R³⁵ is independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl and a halide, t is from 1 to 5, and s is from 0 to 3; and wherein at least one of R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ or R¹⁶ comprise the hydroxyalkyl ether of Formula (IV).

Claim 38 (Original): The monomer of claim 37, wherein m=0, R¹³ is the hydroxy alkyl ether according to Formula (IVa), and R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are each H.

Claim 39 (Original): The ethylenically unsaturated monomer of claim 38, wherein A is methylene or ethylene, each occurrence of R¹⁷ is H, and s is 0.

Claim 40 (Original): A polymer comprising repeat units derived from the monomer according to Formula (Ia) of claim 37.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): A negative tone photoresist composition comprising:

A) a solvent;

B) a photosensitive acid generator;

C) a crosslinking agent containing one or more functional groups; and

D) one or more negative tone imaging polymers comprising the polymers according to claim 34, wherein the polymers contain one or more functional group containing moieties having a functional group that is reactive with the functional groups of the crosslinking agent.

Claims 42-60 (Cancelled).

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The poly(cyclic)olefin polymer of claim 36, wherein the polymer has an optical density of less than 0.2 abs/μm at an exposure wavelength of 193 nm.

Claim 62 (Cancelled).

Claim 63 (Original): The poly(cyclic)olefin polymer of claim 33, wherein the polymer has an optical density of less than 0.2 abs/ μm at an exposure wavelength of 193 nm.

Claim 64 (Cancelled).

Claim 65 (Original): The poly(cyclic)olefin polymer of claim 34, wherein the polymer has an optical density of less than 0.2 abs/ μm at an exposure wavelength of 193 nm.

Claim 66 (Cancelled).

Claim 67 (Original): The poly(cyclic)olefin polymer of claim 35, wherein the polymer has an optical density of less than 0.2 abs/ μm at an exposure wavelength of 193 nm.

Claims 68-75 (Cancelled).

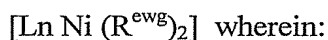
Claim 76 (New): A method of polymerizing poly(cyclic)olefin monomers comprising:

(a) combining a monomer composition comprising one or more poly(cyclic)olefin monomers, a non-olefinic chain transfer agent and an optional activator compound in a reaction vessel to form a mixture; and

(b) adding a polymerization catalyst containing Ni and/or Pd ligated by a monodentate ligand, the catalyst causing the mixture to polymerize;

wherein the non-olefinic chain transfer agent includes one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of H_2 , alkylsilanes, alkylalkoxysilanes, alkylgermanes, alkylalkoxygermanes, alkylstannanes, and alkylalkoxystannanes;

wherein the polymerization catalyst containing Ni is represented by the Formula (XI):



N is an integer of 0, 1, or 2;

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In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of May 28, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 4262-031383

L is a monodentate ligand; and

R^{ewg} is an electron withdrawing ligand.

Claim 77 (New): The method of claim 76, wherein the non-olefinic chain transfer agent comprises H₂, and wherein at least one of said monodentate ligands is selected from the group consisting of toluene, benzene, mesitylene, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, diethylether, ethylacetate, methylacetate, and propylacetate.